Scrap Committee under Ministry of Steel has indicated that there is no noticeable impact on terrestrial flora and fauna.

Non-Functioning of Relay Centre

269. SHRI N.N. KRISHAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the non-functioning of Doordarshan Relay Centres at Attappady, Agali and Palghat in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make functional these Relay Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) While the existing Low Power TV Centre at Palghat in Kerala is reported to be functioning satisfactorily, the one at Attapadi which is located in Agali Suburb of Palghat district was commissioned on 31.3.97 pending staff sanction. The transmitter is presently being run by deployment of staff, on tour, from elsewhere in Doordarshan network thereby providing only part transmission. Full time tramsmission from the Low Power TV Transmitter would depend upon availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project.

[Translation]

Ban on Vulgar Films

270. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about declining standard of DD programmes during the last two years;

(b) if so, the detilas thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the telecast of vulgar films and other such programmes on DD;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Complaints/ suggestions about the quality of programmes telecast on Doordarshan are received regularly from the viewers. No centralised record of such complaints/suggestions is maintained in Doordarshan. However, Doordarshan constantly strives to bring about a qualitative improvement in its programmes in order to sustain the interest of the viewers.

(d) Doordarshan previews all its programmes including films before their telecast in order to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing. Moreover, only those films which are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification for universal screening are considered for telecast on Doordarshan.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Dhaka-Calcutta Express Train

271. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Dhakâ-Calcutta Express train; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Assam

272. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of drinking water in Assam;

(b) the total shortage in its supply at present;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the situation;

(d) whether the World Bank has provided any special assistance for improving the drinking water supply in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) As per the norm of 40 Ltrs. per person per day the total requirement of drinking water for the rural population (1991 Census) in Assam is 7970.60 lakh litres per day.

(b) As on 1.4.1997 there were 10115 'Not Covered'